

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 32, 35 and 41-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 32, 35 and 41, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for these amendments is provided at [0108] (page 24) of the specification. Claims 5, 9-31, 33, 34, 36-40, 42 and 43 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 32, 35, 41 and 44-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,472 to Perala (hereinafter, merely “Perala”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,842 to Kirk, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Kirk”) further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,869 to Higashio (hereinafter, merely “Higashio”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A display control apparatus...

each cursor has a predetermined priority value which can be varied at a subsequent use;

wherein said selection of content information is determined by a decision weighted with said priority value of said cursors; and

wherein said priority value of said cursors varies as a function of said selection of content information; and

wherein each cursor is enabled to select content information within a predetermined time after the first cursor selects a portion of the content information.” (Emphasis added)

Applicants submit that the prior art used as a basis of rejection does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1. As discussed previously, varying the priority value of a cursor as a function of the selection of content information is, for example, assigning a cursor the highest priority value if that cursor's designation of content information does not result in a selection of that content information by the selecting means. As a more specific example, assume that there are three users, User 1, User 2, and User 3, each having a unique cursor. Initially, the priority value of each cursor is the same. User 1 and User 2 both designate a first hyperlink and User 3 designates a second hyperlink. The selecting means selects the first hyperlink. Because User 3's designation was not selected, User 3 is then assigned a higher priority. Claim 1 now further recites that each cursor wherein each cursor is enabled to select content information within a predetermined time after the first cursor selects a portion of the content information.

As understood by Applicants, Perala relates to a system that is usable by at least two persons (owner and customer) in connection with an application which does not support

multiple mice or multiple cursor presentations. Each person has a respective mouse and the customer is permitted to participate in the operation of the application, at least to the extent of being able to point to objects on the screen by means of a cursor.

As understood by Applicants, Kirk relates to a system and method for providing shared access to a three-dimensional virtual environment synchronously with hypertext browsing. A cospace server receives a request from a client, tracks the requests, and stores components of the requested files. When a certain threshold of users has requested a file, the cospace server constructs a three-dimensional room description and sends it to the clients that are browsing the file.

As understood by Applicants, Higashio relates to a system for an information processor that allows multi-use editing.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Perala, Kirk, or Higashio taken either alone or in combination that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1.

Specifically there is no teaching or suggestion of each cursor is enabled to select content information within a predetermined time after the first cursor selects a portion of the content information, as recited in independent claim 1. Indeed, while Higashio describes a system in which a plurality of cursors correspond to a plurality of mouse devices (see Higashio Figure 1) there is no disclosure a selecting content within a predetermined time, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 32, 35 and 41 are also believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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